

MAG HUMAN SERVICES COORDINATING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 19, 2006

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mayor Marie Lopez-Rogers, City of Avondale,
Vice Chair
*Councilmember Rob Antoniak, City of Goodyear
+Councilmember Dave Crozier, Town of Gilbert
*Councilmember Roy Delgado, City of El Mirage
Councilmember Trinity Donovan, City of
Chandler
Laura Guild for Charlene Moran Flaherty,
DES/CSA
Councilmember Kyle Jones, City of Mesa
Councilmember Manuel Martinez, City of
Glendale
Jim McCabe, Area Agency on Aging
+Carol McCormack, Mesa United Way
+Jayson Matthews for Janet Regner, Tempe
Community Council
Councilmember Onnie Sherejian for the City of
Tempe

+Bob Baratko for Mayer Joan Shafer, City of
Surprise
*Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County

OTHERS PRESENT

Sylvia Calderan, ASU
Gwyneth Cowger, Advocates for the Disabled
Maureen DeCindis, MAG
Lindsey Fitzgibbins, Advocates for the Disabled
Teresa Franquiz, MAG
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG
Brande Mead, MAG
Amy St. Peter, MAG

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.
+Those members present by audio/videoconferencing.

1. Call to Order
Chair Lopez-Rogers called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and introductions ensued.
2. Call to the Audience
Chair Lopez-Rogers opened the floor for public comments. No comments were made at this time.
3. Approval of the June 15, 2006 Human Services Coordinating Committee Minutes
Chair Lopez-Rogers called for a motion to approve the June 15, 2006, meeting minutes. Dr. Jim McCabe, Area Agency on Aging, moved to approve the minutes. Councilmember Martinez seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.
4. Update on Social Service Block Grant (SSBG) Recommendation and Proposed Cut
Chair Lopez-Rogers introduced Amy St. Peter, MAG, who offered an update on the revised SSBG allocation recommendations and the efforts to urge Congress to not implement the proposed 19.722 percent cut. Ms. St. Peter provided background on SSBG and updated the committee that the budget bill has gone through both the budget and appropriations committees and was approved at last year's funding level. HSTC and

HSCC requested through the MAG process that a letter be sent to Congress asking that the proposed cut not be implemented. Ms. St. Peter reported that this request has been approved by the MAG Regional Council and that a letter from Mayor Cavanaugh, Chair of the Regional Council, would be sent soon. The letter will include information about how vulnerable the clients are who are served by these funds as well as how much money is at stake locally.

Councilmember Martinez commented that hopefully the proposed budget cuts will not go through. He also noted that with funding remaining at the same level it is still a hardship for many organizations to continue their programs because prices increase from year to year.

Ms. St. Peter asked if the Committee would like to include anything else into the letter. There were no other suggestions. Ms. St. Peter said the letter will be sent to the budget and appropriation committee chairs, the Secretary of Health and Human Services and copies to the Arizona Congressional delegation.

5. HSCC Youth Policy Stakeholders Group

Vice-Chair Lopez-Rogers introduced Nancy Sanchez, ASU Intern, who presented on the progress of the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP). Ms. Sanchez began by stating that YEP is a collaboration between the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council and the MAG Human Services Coordinating Committee's Youth Policy Stakeholders Group. The project was launched on September 28, 2006, with a domestic violence awareness press conference at the Burton Barr Library. Mayor Manross opened the conference with a teen peer advisor and survivor speaking about her experience. She stated this also kicked off the teen web chat about dating violence and the Public Service Announcement Competition.

Ms. Sanchez asked the Committee members for help promoting the PSA competition and referred the Committee to the weboffriends.org website for more information. The website features resource lists and the transcript from the live web chat. She added that the PSA competition is being sponsored by the Governor's office with an Innovative Grant and by Value Options with a \$5,000 donation. Entries for the public service announcement are due by January 2, 2007. Ms. Sanchez asked for any suggestions for judges for each of the categories.

Councilmember Donovan asked how many judges were needed for each of the five categories and if the school districts had been approached. Ms. Sanchez replied that five judges were needed for each of the three categories including youth, social service representatives and field content experts and that various school districts were assisting with the project.

Councilmember Martinez recommended that youth advisory councils could also be approached for support of the project. He also asked if both individual and group entries were eligible. Ms. Sanchez replied that both would be accepted, especially if a class wanted to take this on as a project. Ms. St. Peter added that she wanted to thank Councilmember

Donovan for getting the word out about the competition in the Chandler school district. Ms. St. Peter also wanted to thank Dr. McCabe for providing us the opportunity to have Ms. Sanchez as an intern from ASU. DR. McCabe extended thanks to Sandra Ealy from ASU for being instrumental in the placement.

Chair Lopez-Rogers called for a motion to approve the projects of the Youth Empowerment Project. Councilmember Martinez moved to approve. Ms. Carol McCormack seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. MAG Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan

Vice-Chair Lopez-Rogers introduced Maureen DeCindis, MAG, who reported on efforts to develop the plan to ensure compliance with new SAFETEA-LU regulations and the Arizona Rides Initiative. Ms. DeCindis began by stating that the Human Services Transportation Coordination Stakeholders is developing a plan that will coordinate human services transportation to be in compliance with these new federal regulations. She stated that MAG is working with an excellent consultant to develop strategies to achieve this goal. She invited Committee members to offer their ideas.

Ms. DeCindis reviewed the coordination strategies that have been discussed by the stakeholder group. These concepts include a coordination policy agreement, trip brokerage, a centralized call center, regional networks and countywide consolidation. Ms. DeCindis commented that a first draft of the plan will be done by January and that Phoenix needs the final plan by next spring to receive Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom funds. She added that the Committee would receive a copy of the draft plan when available for their review and comments.

Dr. McCabe asked if Phoenix receives funds to help administer this project. Ms. DeCindis replied that Phoenix does receive funding for administrative costs. Ms. St. Peter stated the federal government is seeking feedback from the local level as to how best to administer the funds. They have not offered much guidance about how the plans should be developed. Dr. McCabe added that local discretion is valuable. Councilmember Jones cautioned that the federal government has at times inappropriately interpreted plans and that this plan ought to be very clear.

Ms. St. Peter continued by saying the meetings have been very dynamic. She requested that the Committee members let MAG staff know about any political issues that may impact the implementation of the plan. Ms. St. Peter noted that the application process for JARC and New Freedom funds will be competitive in the future. MAG started the development of this plan earlier than other regions and as a result was able to secure an excellent consultant.

Dr. McCabe stated that the issue of transportation would be a good topic for issue pairing for the Human Services Retreat. Ms. St. Peter agreed that transportation is definitely a common need and would be addressed at this event.

7. MAG Human Services Committee Reports

Chair Lopez-Rogers invited MAG staff to offer reports on the other MAG Human Services Committees.

- MAG Human Services Technical Committee: Ms. St. Peter thanked the Committee members for participating in the 2006 Human Services Survey. She reported that 20 municipalities and 33 agencies submitted a total of 72 surveys. Ms. St. Peter also thanked DeDe Gaisthea, MAG, for following up with survey respondents and entering the data. The surveys indicate that the main role for MAG is to coordinate regional planning and research. While the municipalities can take care of local planning well, there is a role for MAG to centralize communication and collaboration on a regional basis.

Ms. St. Peter said the survey respondents indicated they want to be involved in human services activities at MAG by attending meetings. Products such as plans and research were identified as being valuable. Youth issues ranked high which affirms the division's new activities with the Youth Empowerment Project. New areas of interest include substance abuse, child care and funding. Ms. St. Peter noted that since the region is not getting its fair share of SSBG and that this could be an area of focus in the future.

Ms. St. Peter also provided an update on planning the 2007 Regional Human Services Retreat. The other MAG Human Services Committees have identified collaborations that exemplify their work. The collaborations will be featured in a video at the beginning of the retreat. Ms. St. Peter said the MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness has chosen the Human Services Campus, the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council will focus on capacity building through research and fundraising and HSTC will focus on the Earned Income Tax Credit Program. She added HSCC needs to select a topic for the video.

Chair Lopez-Rogers commented that HSCC works with all of the human services issues. Ms. St. Peter agreed that this might be a way to introduce the video presentation and then cite a specific project such as the Regional Human Services Plan.

Councilmember Donovan asked if there was a way to include YEP and show the winners of the PSA contest. Chair Lopez-Rogers agreed that this would be a good way to announce the winners. Councilmember Jones motioned to use an overview of human services planning including the 2006 Regional Human Services Plan and YEP for the video project. Councilmember Martinez seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

- MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council: Ms. Franquiz, MAG, began by stating the Victim Services Stakeholder Group has been working since April of this year on a report to highlight the fiscal impact of domestic violence on local criminal justice systems in the MAG region. This is a joint project of the Victim Services group and ASU Partnership for Community Development. She said that the group developed a

survey with the input of local criminal justice officials, including police officers, prosecutors, and municipal court judges. The survey was meant to capture data about the costs of providing criminal justice services in domestic violence cases.

Ms. Franquiz commented the original intent was to provide the survey to all of the municipalities in the MAG region, but after a small pilot study was done with just four cities, they realized that gathering this volume of information within the allotted timeframe was not feasible. The decision was made to concentrate on getting the best data possible for the handful of pilot cities that were initially approached to participate. She said they surveyed the Cities of Avondale, Glendale, Phoenix and Scottsdale. Ms. Franquiz commented that many thanks go out to the police, prosecutors, and municipal court officials in these cities who took the time to provide feedback on the survey instrument itself and to respond to the survey.

Ms. Franquiz stated that very few studies like this have been done before in the United States. A number have been done on the fiscal impact of domestic violence upon victims themselves, upon private business, and upon the health care system, but not much has been done on the cost of domestic violence to the public sector. She added that one reason this might be the case is that it's difficult to pull together standard data across different jurisdictions. This is especially true here in Maricopa County, where we have so many different municipalities that are so unique. Out of necessity, the municipalities all track this type of data just a little bit differently. The attempt to glean information across jurisdictions using one universal survey tool has been a difficult way to go about this type of study.

Ms. Franquiz added that this report just scratches the surface and this was a very first attempt to find out what information could be collected. She added that there's a whole universe of costs that were not included within the scope of this study this time around, including prison costs, costs of supervised probation, costs to family courts and so on.

She told the members that the estimated average cost to provide the services that were surveyed across the MAG region would at a minimum likely range between \$18 and \$26 million per year. This range includes a wide 20 percent variance, either higher or lower. More information on how the final estimate was reached can be found in the draft report. She added that this is just a piece of the costs incurred by municipalities because of domestic violence.

Ms. Franquiz stated the following recommendations were made: 1) to do additional studies, either one city at a time, or a longitudinal study of certain cases, 2) analyze existing local policies and procedures to identify differences and commonalities, and 3) identify and recommend applicable data collection and data sharing models.

Ms. McCormack asked if other costs not covered by the current study, such as family court, supervised probation, and prison, would be taken into account if longitudinal case studies were adopted as a model for further study. Ms. Franquiz commented that

depended on each case. In some cases, these costs would likely be incurred, but not necessarily in all domestic violence cases. She noted that one alternative way to do case studies was done in Australia. There, they asked victims to remember how many times they attempted to access public services, such as shelter or called the police. Researchers then estimated a total of all the costs of the services reportedly received by each victim.

Dr. McCabe asked if funding might be less available once the regional aspect is taken away if further study was to be conducted one city at a time. He noted that funders would likely be more apt to provide funding for a coordinated effort that looks at a wider region, rather than at individual jurisdictions. Ms. Franquiz said that was a good point that would need to be taken into consideration. She added that this individual jurisdiction model would not rule out looking at more than one city, but that each would need to be studied individually, rather than comparatively.

Councilmember Martinez asked if just a sampling of cities was used because of cost. Ms. Franquiz answered that the limited number of cities included in the study was more because of the short timeframe that was available to conduct the study and the complex the analysis of the different types of data that was received. She noted again how differently each municipality capture data, and gave the example of how some cities have specific dispatch codes for DV calls to 911, and others do not. Ms. Guild suggested looking at a larger number of other cities to identify and recommend a model that works well. Ms. Franquiz agreed, and noted that this is the thrust of recommendations two and three from the draft study.

Councilmember Martinez asked if the group had contacted Judge Elizabeth Finn from the City of Glendale Municipal Courts for this study. Ms. Franquiz replied that she had contacted Judge Finn, and that she was very helpful in the development of the survey instrument and providing data for this report.

Ms. St. Peter added that she wanted to thank ASU for helping with this report, as well as the Cities of Avondale, Glendale, Phoenix and Scottsdale for their participation. Chair Lopez-Rogers also thanked Ms. Franquiz for her work on the report. She added that while the report does not include all of the costs of domestic violence it is a good beginning to look at the issue of fiscal impact.

- MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness: Ms. Mead, MAG, reported that annual Continuum of Care luncheon is scheduled for December 8, 2006, at the Arizona Biltmore from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This year local success stories will be featured to show the positive impact of service providers. Invitations have been sent out. Ms. Mead asked if the Committee members have not done so to please RSVP to MAG.

Ms. Mead stated that the county wide 2007 homeless street count will take place on January 30, 2007. She said that the street count is very important to planning for services, to raise awareness about homelessness and in measuring performance. Ms.

Mead said she is in the process of working with coordinators to go out and conduct the count. Coordinators are still needed in Carefree, Goodyear and Guadalupe. A letter will be sent out to the City Managers about the count. She continued by saying they are looking for new ideas to get people to volunteer. Coordinator training will be held in mid November. She thanked the cities and towns for participating in the past.

8. Announcements

Chair Lopez-Rogers commented that the committee is taking into consideration changing the meeting date and time to accommodate other members who have meetings at this time. It was suggested that Wednesday mornings were good for Committee members..

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm. The next meeting of the Human Services Coordinating Committee is scheduled for Wednesday January 17, 2006 from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 am at the MAG building, second floor, Cholla Room.